



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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**Washington, D. C. 20554**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 22, 2002

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## **FCC Releases Study on *Telephone Trends***

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its bi-annual report, *Trends in Telephone Service*. The report provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the telephone industry asked by consumers, members of Congress, other government agencies, telecommunications carriers, and members of the business and academic communities.

The report presents in one publication statistics published in several FCC publications over the last six months. Highlights include the following:

### **Advanced Telecommunications Services**

- High-speed lines (over 200 Kbps in at least one direction) connecting homes and businesses to the Internet increased by 36% during the first half of 2001, to a total of 9.6 million lines (or wireless channels) in service from about 7.1 million at the end of December 2000.
- About 5.9 million high-speed lines provided speed of over 200 Kbps in both directions, and thus met the Commission's definition of advanced services, compared to about 4.3 million at the end of December 2000.

### **International Calling**

- The number of calls made from the United States to other countries increased from 200 million in 1980 to 6.6 billion in 2000.
- In 2000, Americans spent about \$14.9 billion on international calls. On average, carriers billed 51 cents per minute for international calls in 2000, a decline of more than 60% since 1980.

### **Local Telephone Competition**

- As of June 30, 2001, competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) provided 17.3 million (or 9.0%) of the approximately 192 million nationwide local telephone lines that were in service to end users as opposed to 14.9 million (or 7.7%) of nationwide local telephone lines at the end of 2000.
- About one-third of CLEC end-user lines are served over local loop facilities that the CLECs own.

- Incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) reported providing other carriers about 4.4 million lines on a resale basis as of June 30, 2001, compared to about 5.4 million lines six months earlier, and they provided about 7.9 million unbundled network element (UNE) loops as of June 30, 2001, compared to about 5.3 million loops six months earlier.

### **Telephone Rates**

- Local phone rates have remained steady. The average monthly local residential charge for service was \$21.84 in October 2001 as compared to \$19.24 in 1990. For a business with a single phone line, the representative charge for service was \$42.18 in October 2001 as compared to \$41.21 in October 1990.

### **Subscribership**

- More than twenty-three million households have been added to the nation's telephone system since November 1983. As of November 2001, 102.2 million households had telephone service.

### **Toll-Free Numbers**

- There are currently four toll-free prefixes in use - 800, 888, 877, and 866 - with over 24.5 million toll-free numbers assigned as of the end of April 2002.

This report is available for reference in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th, S.W. Copies may be purchased by calling Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 863-2893, or via e-mail [qualexint@aol.com](mailto:qualexint@aol.com). The report can be downloaded from the **FCC-State Link** Internet site at [www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats](http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats).

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For further information, contact the Industry Analysis and Technology Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-0940, or for users of TTY equipment, call 202-418-0484.